

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 JANUARY 1981

American Hostages

Speaking about the negotiations for the release of the U.S. hostages at a press conference reported by Tehran radio and PARS, Minister of State Behzad Nabavi said Algeria has presented some new proposals to Iranian officials, agreeing "to receive an undertaking" on behalf of Iran and the United States to solve the outstanding problems. Nabavi went on to say that Iran is currently studying the Algerian proposals but denied asking the United States for further clarifications of its latest offer. The minister added that if the United States "procrastinates" and does not give a "positive response," the hostages will stand trial.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Mashhad Demonstration--AFP, citing the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, reported that "tens of thousands of people" demonstrated in favor of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in the eastern city of Mashhad on 5 January. The pro-Bani-Sadr newspaper said the demonstration came in response to a speech by Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti that praised the military offensive but did not mention President Bani-Sadr.

Nabavi on Economy--In a Tehran radio interview Minister of State Nabavi admitted Iran's economic problems have increased as a result of economic sanctions and the war with Iraq. However, he said economic sanctions have been "useful" for Iran since they have made the government harden its resolve to break Iran's dependence on international markets controlled by foreign powers and companies. The government is reviewing the role of assembly industries, he said, and also aims to reduce its own expenditure and improve the lot of the "oppressed class" of society. Nabavi denied that Iran's programs of economic mobilization are communist inspired and said the government's determination to distribute resources fairly is based on Islamic principles.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran and Iraq have made conflicting claims on the success of the latest Iranian offensive. Tehran radio continues to report widespread victories along the entire front including Gilan-e Gharb and the surrounding heights of the Kabir Kuh mountains but noted "hand-to-hand and face-to-face fighting" in Chahar-Band and Darvaru. Iranian Air Force planes hit Iraqi targets at Fakkah and Hamid, the radio said, while Iranian artillery fire raked Iraqi positions along the Mahshahr-Abadan and Darkhovin-Mared axes.

An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, said that war in general means "an attack and a counterattack, a loss and a counterloss" and played down the Iranian offensive "on a front a few kilometers in width" while the Iraqi Army continues to hold a 1000-km-long front inside Iran. The communique stressed that Iraqi forces continue to maintain their strong positions around Susangerd and have destroyed an Iranian armored brigade including 51 tanks. Other Iraqi communiqués reported by the radio and INA described further operations by Iraqi forces against the remnants of the Iranian offensive around Ahvaz, Dezful and Abadan.

Kurdish Situation

Tehran radio reported renewed clashes between revolution guards and "counterrevolutionaries" near Saqqez and Mahabad at the end of December and early in January. The Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio has claimed that the government has imposed an "economic siege" on Kordestan. The radio also denied "rumors" that the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) will proclaim an independent republic of Kordestan on 22 January. The KDP has no such step in mind, the radio said, but wants only to secure "genuine self-rule" for the Kurdish people.

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin again met with Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz and Education Minister Zvulun Hammer in an attempt to reach a compromise over the 'Etzyoni report, which recommended salary increases for teachers. The radio added, however, that agreement has still not been reached.

Jordan

In a speech to a symposium at Jordan University, reported by PETRA-JNA, King Husayn reiterated his support for the right of Palestinians to exercise self-determination and form an independent state. There are "no other options acceptable to Jordan," he said, "nor is there any substitute" for the PLO.

An unattributed commentary by Amman radio dismisses the tour of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as "an application for employment, with the recommendation of friends in Cairo and Tel Aviv," to enable him to return to the region that "he himself split and ruined with his policy during the Ford administration."

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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ALL 42 INVITEES TO ATTEND MECCA ISLAMIC SUMMIT

LD071041 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Musfir Ghurmallah al-Ghamidi report: "All the Islamic States Have Agreed To Attend the Mecca Summit"]

[Excerpts] Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has emphasized that all the states invited to attend the forthcoming Islamic summit conference have agreed to attend.

It is known that 42 Islamic states have been invited to the conference.

'ARAFAT TO TOUR GULF BEFORE ISLAMIC SUMMIT

JN080914 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Doha, 8 Jan (INA)--Press reports said here today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will tour the Gulf states prior to the start of the Islamic summit in Mecca. The newspaper AL-ARAB reports that a high-level Palestinian delegation will accompany 'Arafat during the tour.

Quoting well-informed Palestinian sources the paper says that 'Arafat's talks with the states' leaders will resolve around three important issues, foremost of which are supporting Arab relations and defining an Arab-Islamic stand on the policy of the new U.S. administration based on its position toward the Arab-Zionist struggle.

The paper adds that 'Arafat will also discuss the latest developments in the Lebanese problem, particularly the repeated Israeli attacks.

FATAH OFFICIAL ON JORDAN'S PEACE TALKS INVOLVEMENT

LD061142 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0733 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Jan (KUNA)--A Palestinian official in an interview published here today says that the stated aim of the Palestinian resistance is to prevent the Jordanian monarch King Husayn from "encircling" the Palestinian people and from joining the Egyptian-Israeli-American Camp David agreements. The member of the Central Committee of the fedayeen Fatah movement, Majid Abu Sharar, told the Kuwaiti AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM that also among the stated aims of the resistance is to topple these agreements and to confront the United States.

He expects the Arab region to witness in 1982 "the start of a new stage of political and military action" if the resistance is able to achieve its stated targets during this year. Abu Sharar says that the new stage will be built on "a new political map where many alliances will have changed in favor of the continuation of the Arab liberation movement at the cost of imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction."

The Palestinian official points out that many views of the Arab countries vis-a-vis the Palestinian revolution are other than those which are not [as received] declared in public. He says that the resistance knows "that some Arab regimes have a daily goal to end the Palestinian revolution and to bring back the Palestinians to live once again under Arab patronage." He says that the resistance will expose these postures "at a time which will serve the Palestinian revolution and will not cause it new problems."

BAHRAINEDWARD HEATH MAKES STATEMENT, LEAVES FOR HOME

JN071355 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Manama, 7 Jan (GNA)--Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath ended a visit to Bahrain today and left for home at the end of a tour of several Middle Eastern states.

In a statement to the GNA prior to his departure Edward Heath said that during his visit he held talks with the Bahraini amir, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, on several current issues, particularly developments in the Arab Gulf region's situation, the war raging between Iraq and Iran, the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the current international economic situation.

Heath affirmed that his Middle East tour provided him with the opportunity to get acquainted with some of the problems facing the Middle East region, adding that he believes that it is important that Britain and the European states be informed about the course of events that pertains to these problems, since the region is considered one of the world's most important and strategic, for several reasons.

The former British prime minister added that this is particularly important as Britain and its European partners are seeking to establish peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East regions and to settle the disputes in these regions and as they receive that such peace and stability are important for the West and for all world states, particularly where trade and economic aspects are concerned.

The former British prime minister pointed out that the European states are now undertaking an effort to establish a joint foreign policy. He added that these states have been holding contacts through the European foreign ministers for several months in order to implement this policy.

Heath said that his country has held contacts with several Arab leaders so as to be informed about their viewpoints on the various aspects of the Middle East issue. He said: We held meetings with European officials in Luxembourg when the EEC foreign ministers met last month to follow up the Arab-Israeli dispute, in light of the European proposals to solve the crisis.

Heath added that the European ministers held meetings to continue talks on the formulation of the European stand on the dispute.

In conclusion, Heath said: The European states are not alone in exerting efforts to settle the dispute. Rather, they are consulting with the United States in an effort to establish peace and stability in the Middle East.

UK'S HOWELL ARRIVES FOR COOPERATION TALKS 8 JAN

JN080849 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Manama, 8 Jan (GNA)--British Secretary of State for Energy David Howell arrived in Manama this morning on a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

In a statement to GNA the British secretary said that the aim of his visit is to boost cooperation between the kingdom and Bahrain and to strengthen the ties of friendship between his country and the area's states in the various fields. He added that there are other economic reasons behind the visit. He said that he will hold talks to obtain oil from the Gulf states and to hold negotiations about energy affairs. The British secretary said that he will address a seminar organized by the Bahraini engineers' society. The subject of his address has not yet been specified.

Asked about the outcome of his visit to the area David Howell said that his talks with the officials in these countries have been extremely constructive.

He reiterated that his country is endeavoring to better the level of its relations with the area's states. He expressed the hope that these relations, particularly with Bahrain, will be developed in the future in the economic, industrial and oil fields.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER DISMISSES REACTION TO OIL PRICE HIKE

LD061719 Rivadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Hasan al-Zahiri report: "Kuwait Oil Minister: Developing Countries Are Not Affected by Oil Prices Alone"]

[Text] Jidda--In a statement to AR-RIYAD commenting on Washington reports about the U.S. feeling of disappointment over resolutions recently adopted by the OPEC conference in Bali, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah as-Sabah said:

"It is not the recent increase in oil prices alone that affects the developing countries. Rather there are other factors such as the rise of prices of industrial goods exported by the United States to the developing countries, which recently doubled."

The Kuwaiti minister expressed astonishment at the concentration upon oil prices while ignoring the prices of goods which the industrial states export to the developing countries.

NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 2 JAN

LD021518 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1356 GMT 2 Jan 81

[Text] Kuwait, Jan (JUNA)--Netherlands Foreign Minister Dr van der Klaauw today arrived here for a 2-day official visit at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

On his arrival he stated that his visit completes a tour by the former chairman of the European ministerial council and Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Gaston Thorn, to get acquainted with Kuwait's viewpoint about the development of the situation in the Middle East region. Klaauw, who currently heads the European ministerial council, stated that after his visit to Kuwait he will visit Qatar.

AL-HADAF: U.S. TO USE FOOD AS POLITICAL WEAPON

LD071201 Kuwait AL-HADAF in Arabic 4 Jan 81 p 10

['Izz ad-Din at-Tantawi article: "Washington Brandishes Weapon of Starving Peoples"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of Agriculture-designate John Block has said that food is the greatest weapon the United States possesses for the next 20 years. He said: "The best way to use this food is to tie countries to the United States so that they will become dependent on it to such an extent that they cannot dispense with this tie."

What do these words mean and what lies behind them?

The obvious and definite meaning is that the United States intends to resort to the policy of starving peoples in order to bring them to their knees.

Washington pursued such a policy in the past but it appears that now it will take it a step further so it will become a U.S. strategy in the era of Ronald Reagan.

While Washington is planning to impose its domination and hegemony over the world's peoples by exploiting food which man cannot dispense with and making it the price for surrendering and toeing the U.S. political line, the Western, Zionist and capitalist media resort to inciting the world against the Arabs when they call for the oil weapon to be used in our fierce battle against Zionist aggression despite the fact that oil is not as vital as food and man lived without it for thousands of years before it was discovered and will go on living after it is exhausted.

When the policy of starving peoples becomes a new method in international relations what can you say about human rights, rules of international law and the freedom of peoples?

QATAR

MINISTER DISCUSSES GULF STRATEGY, ISLAMIC SUMMIT

JN081046 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Jidda, 8 Jan (QNA)--His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed that the third Islamic summit, which will be held in holy Mecca this month, will define all the greater Islamic goals within the framework of containing all the obstacles that might impede any direct Islamic move.

In a telephone conversation with the Saudi paper AL-BILAD, published today, he pointed out that the third Islamic summit is not against anyone. Rather, he pointed out, it will be held mainly for the purpose of uniting the Muslims' word and their ranks in order to serve the magnanimous Islamic shari'ah.

His excellency pointed out that the world is following with great concern the moves being made by the Islamic and Arab leaderships in general and by the Saudi leadership in particular, since the Saudi leadership is playing a vanguard role these days in the efforts being exerted to bolster the Arab and Islamic stand in the confrontation of blatant challenges.

The Qatari minister expressed complete satisfaction over the Islamic rapprochement, adding that such rapprochement will be one of the most prominent and important steps and will give impetus to joint action to achieve our noble goals.

In the course of his reply on the existence of the new strategy for the Arab Gulf states he added that such a strategy does exist and is mainly for the purpose of confronting the challenges to which the region's states are being subjected.

The Qatari minister affirmed that the Arab Gulf states are capable of protecting the Gulf, adding that these states as a whole reject any foreign interference aiming to impose a terrorist hegemony on or mandate over the region's states. Thus, he added, proceeding from this premise and along with the fraternal Arab Gulf states, Qatar is seeking to assert this, and the message which was recently conveyed from his highness the Qatari amir to the Kuwaiti amir was to this effect.

UAEUK'S DOUGLAS HURD ON EEC MIDEAST INITIATIVE

JN062147 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jan (ENA)--Douglas Hurd, British minister of state for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has stated that the EEC initiative on the Middle East problem will take a more definite form during the coming stage, after being confined in the past to a determination of viewpoints about it by the concerned parties in the Middle East.

In an exclusive statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Hurd said that during the summit conference held in Brussels at the outset of last month the European states' leaders decided to conduct a new round of talks with the states concerned. He pointed out that the new talks will touch on more practical and more clear points. Commenting on the U.S. role in the Middle East, the British minister said: While studying the possibility of implementing their initiative, the EEC states cannot disregard the significance of the role played by Washington in the region. He added that the doors have to remain open to any effort that any party might undertake to find a just and lasting settlement to the problem.

The British minister discussed the great growth in relations between the UAE and Britain and the increasing bilateral contacts between top officials in the two states. He stressed the importance of the Gulf region's security and peace, as this reflects on the safety of the world economy. Hurd affirmed that the superpowers, particularly Britain, are showing increasing understanding of the Gulf states' viewpoint; namely, that the region's security and safety are the responsibility of its people.

UK'S DAVID HOWELL COMMENTS ON OIL PRICES

JN061420 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1320 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jan (GNA)--British Secretary of State for Energy David Howell today described the recent increase in oil prices announced by OPEC in mid-December as moderate and as reflective of the average inflation in the developing countries. The British secretary of state for energy expressed the hope that a sudden hike in oil prices will not occur. He called for gradual and moderate increases so that the industrial countries can absorb them.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY today, Howell denied reports that his current visit to the UAE is intended to obtain extra oil supplies for his country. He asserted that his country has not been seriously affected by the existing oil shortage resulting from the Iraqi-Iranian war. The British secretary of state for energy said that his government maintains good relations with oil-producing states in the area and can resort to these countries when oilwells in the North Sea are exhausted. The UAE exports more than 70,000 barrels a day to Britain, primarily from Abu Dhabi.

YAROPPOSITION LEADER ON CLASHES WITH YAR FORCES

LD021145 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 30 Dec 80 p 19

[Marwan Hazin report: "Yahya ash-Shami Reveals Armed Clashes in North Yemen"]

[Text] Yahya ash-Shami, member of the secretariat of the [YAR's] PDRY-based National Democratic Front, has revealed that armed clashes are taking place in North Yemen between the front's forces and government forces.

Ash-Shami, who visited Kuwait a few days ago accused his country's regular forces of launching several armed attacks on many villages in the district of Al-Qafr and the areas of Rima, 'Atma, Al-Makhadir, Ar-Rida'i, Ba'dan, Al-Harith, Ash-Shar, Al-Awd and Qa'tabah, as well as in certain eastern areas in the province of Ta'izz.

He said that the fighting, involving various weapons including aircraft, have been in progress since 24 October. He said that a recent attack was intended to bomb a popular congress held recently and attended by more than 15,000 people in the Ha'ir al-'Ush district of San'a' Province. Ash-Shami said that strafing took place 9 and 10 December.

Ash-Shami said that the dialogue between the front and the North Yemen regime is now suspended. He blamed this on the government and certain foreign parties. He declared the front's readiness for peaceful dialogue and to honor the previous agreements stipulating a halt to military campaigns and the resolution of outstanding disputes through negotiations. He added, however, that "we will resort to various methods to defend ourselves against military campaigns."

Ash-Shami stopped over in Kuwait at the end of a tour during which he visited Syria and Lebanon. The National Democratic Front demands the achievement of democracy and seeks support for its struggle for national sovereignty in North Yemen.

In a statement to AS-SIYASAH, Ash-Shami supported Brezhnev's proposal for neutralizing the Gulf, saying that the sole principal danger threatening the Gulf and its peoples is colonialism in its old and new forms. He urged the countries of the area to strengthen their independence through struggle "against the new methods used by imperialism, which is seeking to restore its grip on the area on the pretext of protecting it from so-called Soviet influence."

Ash-Shami criticized the Iraq-Iran war and called for the peaceful solution of the border problem between the two countries.

Ash-Shami praised the "close relations" linking the front and the PDRY regime. He said that normal and sound relations link the front and the PDRY regime inasmuch as both sides share common objectives. He condemned the attempts by "some people" to undermine these relations.

Ash-Shami called for continued relations between the two parts of Yemen but he excluded the possibility of cooperation or collaboration between the two authorities "whether in the economic field or other fields." He said: "We endorse Yemeni unity, but it would appear to be difficult to achieve in the present circumstances."

Speaking about the front's relations with the Arab countries, Ash-Shami said that consultations are being held with some Arab countries, "and we are trying to acquaint them with the developments in our country." He denied that some Arab countries give financial aid to the front, saying that "we rely on our own resources."

The PDRY-based National Democratic Front includes several revolutionary battalions and comprises all the nationalist and democratic personalities in North Yemen.

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON EGYPTIAN POLICIES, TIES

LD080915 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 5 Jan 81 pp 8-9

[Interview given to Mahmud Dhihni by Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr 'Usamah al-Baz--date and place not given]

[Text] The circles which begrudge Egypt's leading role in the Middle East have reiterated some allegations about Egypt's foreign, international and Arab policy. They said that Egypt's role has recently been confined to reactions and that Egypt has lost the political initiative. They also said that Egypt has no more cards to play in international politics and that its relations with the United States have become very special, which portends international polarization of the Arab area's problems.

I carried these allegations to Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, and the following dialogue took place between us in search of the truth.

Dr 'Usamah al-Baz said: In its sound position, Egypt has been and continues to be the most important state in the Middle East. Egypt's strategic position has not changed but has rather become more important, in addition to Egypt's enormous human resources, qualitatively and quantitatively, and its continued ability to act politically.

It is true that our relations with the Arab states are broken off officially, yet everybody--friends and otherwise--realizes that this is a temporary situation. For this reason, the states outside the area continue to deal with Egypt on the basis of this fact. For example, the EEC states consulted Egypt before they held their summit meeting in Venice on 10 June last year at which they propounded the idea of the European initiative. The EEC continues to coordinate with Egypt in advance on the Arab-European dialogue and on any other subject related to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Egypt's African role is a prominent one and is becoming constantly more active. We are still effective within the nonaligned group despite all attempts to jeopardize our position within that group. As to our role being restricted to reactions, this is belied by the following facts.

It was Egypt which took the initiative of the war decision and also the initiative to achieve peace.

It was Egypt which spurred the United States, step by step, into playing the role of full partner in the Middle East peace process.

Egypt was the first to call for the adoption of a clear positive stand on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. It was Egypt which called for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war and for resisting foreign intervention, and which offered the United States and any European state temporary military facilities in order to help the Arab and Islamic states in the area to defend themselves.

As for the cards Egypt holds, the first is Egypt's genuinely independent will and its adherence to its freedom to make its own decisions. This enables it to act individually in the international field because there is no special obligation between Egypt and any state, great or small, that commands us to follow a particular course.

The alltime trump card which Egypt holds in its hand is the maximum political and internal stability which it enjoys and whose importance increase with the steady improvement in its economy. On the one hand we are still the strongest state in the area, politically and militarily; on the other, Egypt's pan-Arab commitment renders it completely capable and prepared to assume the responsibility of adopting the solution of the Palestinian issue.

[Question] Is the Egyptian-Palestinian dialogue disrupted completely?

[Answer] Contact with the PLO is disrupted by PLO's decision and not Egypt's. Nevertheless, this does not preclude the existence of contacts between us and the Palestinian brothers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, on the basis of our special responsibilities to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

[Question] Is contact between Cairo and the countries of the socialist bloc disrupted. If so, does this not increase the possibilities and risks of international polarization?

[Answer] Certainly we do not wish our international position to hinge on our relationship with any one particular state. Even with the United States, which is cooperating with us in many fields, we should not have special relations different from those which exist between us and any other state. Therefore, our relations with states like Britain, Germany, Romania, China and Democratic Korea are strong relations.

The role Washington has played in the peace efforts has perhaps generated the impression that Washington has a special or privileged place in our foreign relations and foreign policy. This interpretation is not accurate. The United States is not one of the area's states, nor is it a nonaligned state. On this basis, Egypt did not hesitate to declare its refusal to grant the United States foreign bases on its territories regardless of the reasons.

With regard to the Soviet Union, we are prepared to establish normal relations with it on the same basis as our relations with Washington--within a framework of mutual interest and noninterference in internal affairs.

[Question] Are there any contacts at present between Egypt and the Arab states?

[Answer] There are no official contacts between us and the Arab states. Had there been any contacts, Egypt would have said so, because we do not hold contacts secretly. What provoked such speculations recently were two important developments which occurred and which made the Arab governments reconsider their stand and their calculations.

The first event was the Iraqi-Iranian war developments, which prompted the governments of those states to take another look at the basic issue relating to the strategic security of the Middle East. The events of this war have emphasized the fact that any upset or deterioration in the strategic and security situation in the area surely threatens the Arab entities as a whole.

The second event was the realization by many fraternal Arab states, particularly after the recent Arab summit conference in Jordan and the possibilities of confrontation between Syria and Jordan, that Egypt is the Arab country which is most interested in the Palestinian people and the Palestinian issue and that Egypt is the only country which continues to confront Israel resolutely for the sake of the Palestinian people's cause.

'ALI DENOUNCES PROPOSED LIBYA-CHAD MERGER

NC072128 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated to the radio correspondent that the transitional government in Chad has no right to decide the future of the country and perpetuate the Libyan occupation of Chadian territory, which is considered a threat to the neighboring African states and at the same time a perpetuation of a strong foreign presence and intervention in some areas in Africa. Kamal Hasan 'Ali made this statement in reaction to reports on the proposed merger between Chad and Libya.

COMMENTARY EQUATES LIBYA-CHAD UNITY TO AFGHANISTAN

NC072000 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "Chad Between Unity and Libyan Invasion"]

[Text] Libya has declared unity between Libya and its African neighbor, Chad. Before that, Libya declared unity with Syria. The new Libyan-Chadian unity and the expected Libyan-Syrian unity, in addition to Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa, and Afghanistan in Asia constitute a red line and a sphere of influence for the Soviets. Syria has turned Latakia and Tartus into bases for Soviet advisers. It is linked to Moscow by a treaty of friendship and cooperation. Then there are the links between Libya and the Soviet Union.

The unity between Libya and Chad comes after the Libyan invasion of parts of northern Chad and the heavy shelling of the positions of Chadian Defense Minister Habre in the capital and the rebel forces in the north.

Since the Soviet advisers and reinforcements were behind Libya's intensive strikes in Chad, Habre, the defense minister and leader of the revolution, had to take refuge in the Cameroon to prepare for returning and for extricating his country from the invading forces and from communism in general.

Since Colonel al-Qadhdhafi helped Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei in his fight against the rebels led by Habre, his reward was a compulsory Chadian unity with Libya.

It is known that Libya's ambitions in Chad date back to the beginning of Al-Qadhdhafi's revolution which continued to lie in wait for Chad which had been torn by strife since its independence from France 20 years ago. Conflict flared last March between the rebel forces led by Habre and the supporters of President Goukouni, until the president of Chad concluded a defense treaty with Al-Qadhdhafi in June.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi tried to divide Chad between himself and France, which last year sold him \$800 million worth of French arms. France, however, refused to partition Chad.

The states around Chad are now apprehensive about the communist tide which is moving with the Libyan invasion taking the form of compulsory unity. Habre, however, who fled to the Cameroon, swore that he will continue his struggle against the illegitimate government and against foreign troops.

Observers believe that Chad indirectly constitutes another Afghanistan with the Libyan-Soviet presence.

YUGOSLAVIA'S DRAGAN ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 7 JAN

JN080746 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0300 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Zvone Dragan, vice president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, arrived in Baghdad last night to head the Yugoslav side to the joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, whose sixth session begins in Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA upon arrival, Dragan said that the committee will discuss reports on its 1980 activities and will draw up its work plan for 1981. He added that the committee will sign a protocol for economic and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Zvone Dragan praised the strong existing relations between the two countries and their endeavors to promote these relations in the service of the two friendly peoples.

The Yugoslav delegation was received by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, who will head Iraq's side to the committee's meetings; Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade; and the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON WAR

Communique No 203

JN071749 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Communique No 203 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 January 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish. God is always truthful. [Koranic verse]

Bani-Sadr exchanged congratulations with their head, charlatan Khomeyni, who taught them withcraft, and with his clique yesterday and the day before yesterday on the attack they launched against our armed units in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. They pretended to themselves and to the world that this attack achieved great success in its first page, giving their aides hope for other pages of false victories.

We do not deny that war contains an attack and a counterattack, a loss and a counterloss. However, we thank Almighty God that the army that they boasted and with which they threatened to occupy Baghdad became victorious, in their opinion, merely after being able--from the technical point of view--to launch a counterattack on a front a few kilometers in width, which is part of a combat front of approximately 1,000 km inside their territories. This explains the terrible psychological state afflicting them on the level of their political leadership and organizations and on that of their armed forces. Nevertheless, we address our words to the Iranian Armed Forces General Command and ask it to tell us what Iranian cities it managed to keep free of the danger of being controlled by the Iraqi forces' fire, and from which cities they managed to expel the Iraqi forces, as well as which Iraqi units they managed to besiege or annihilate. Let them tell their people and the world where our military units are now, especially in the Khafajiyah region, so that the world can know of their false victory. Let them tell their people what happened to their forces yesterday and today.

As for us, we tell our great people and valiant army that, God willing, we will turn the Khafajiyah region into a final cemetery for what is left of their armored and other forces should the Iranians agree to maintain the contact and the fight between our forces and theirs. Following are the known enemy losses in this battle yesterday evening and today:

I. One armored brigade and 15 rocket launching bases destroyed, hundreds of personnel killed, scores of personnel captured and 61 tanks, 13 armored personnel carriers and 30 various kinds of vehicles seized.

II. Our helicopters raided the enemy targets and destroyed 18 tanks, 1 gun and 1 steamshovel. The helicopters returned to base but for three, which fell within our units' sectors.

III. Our air fighters shot down two F-5 planes in a dogfight.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 January 1981

Communique No 204

JN071809 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Communique No 204 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 7 January 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our brave armed forces continued to strike and destroy the racist Persian enemy. Following are the results of their activities in their operational sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. The ground forces:

A. Our advanced forces in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab engaged an enemy troop concentration and forced the enemy to flee after sustaining 22 dead and the destruction of 3 vehicles.

B. Yesterday evening and this morning the enemy repeated his attempts to approach our units' positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Our forces clashed with the enemy bravely and with all sorts of weapons and forced him to retreat, leaving behind 202 dead, 5 tanks and 1 armored personnel carrier.

C. In the region opposite their positions in Sayf Sa'd our forces inflicted seven dead on the enemy and the destruction of two vehicles laden with personnel and three ammunition stockpiles.

D. Three were killed on the Mehran region.

E. One enemy gun was destroyed in the Shush region.

F. An enemy force comprising tanks and infantry tried to attack our advanced units' positions in the Dezful sector yesterday afternoon. Our units confronted it bravely and clashed with it with all types of weapons, forcing it to retreat, leaving behind 30 killed, 3 destroyed tanks, 2 tanks and 1 serviceable gun. This afternoon, our brave units launched a general attack on the enemy's positions in the same sector. The clashes between our forces and the enemy were going on as of the time that this communique was prepared.

G. Our units in the Ahvaz region destroyed what was left of the enemy remnants that tried to attack our positions yesterday. They killed 20 troops and destroyed 1 vehicle, 1 observation post, 1 steamshovel and 1 rocket launcher.

H. The enemy losses in the Abadan region: Nine were killed and one armored personnel carrier, four vehicles, two guns, one ammunition stockpile and one observation post were destroyed.

I. Our fighter planes shot down an enemy fighter plane when it tried to raid our units' positions in the Ahvaz region. Our field guns shot down another fighter plane in the same region.

II. The air forces: Our valiant forces' planes launched 10 raids today against the enemy military positions in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] regions. They destroyed and hit a large number of enemy tanks and vehicles. All of our planes returned safely to the homeland.

Accordingly, known enemy losses total: 293 dead, 10 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers, 10 vehicles, 4 guns of various caliber, 4 ammunition stockpiles, 1 steamshovel, 2 observation posts, 1 rocket launcher and 2 fighter planes.

III. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: 33 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: The following were damaged: three tanks, 6 personnel carriers, 2 vehicles, 2 mortars and 4 rocket launchers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 January 1981

Communique No 205

JN072050 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Communique No 205 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 January 1981]

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)--In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our valiant armed forces continued to strike the retreating enemy remnants in the Dezful and Khafajiyah regions, inflicting the following losses:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Dezful region.

- 1. In personnel: 50 dead and a large number of wounded.
 - 2. In equipment: Nine tanks and three tow missile launchers were destroyed.
- A number of medium weapons was seized.

B. Khafajiyah region: 28 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers and 19 vehicles, 2 of which were loaded with personnel, were destroyed.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: Six martyrs.
- B. In equipment: Two tanks, six guns, two personnel carriers and one vehicle were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 January 1981

INA JOURNALISTS VISIT BATTLEFRONT AT KHAFAJIYAH

JN071851 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Khafajiyah, 7 Jan (INA)--INA journalists who visited the battlefield at the approaches of Khafajiyah [Susangerd] today saw scores of destroyed Iranian tanks left behind by the enemy forces, which have begun to reap the outcome of their abortive attack.

In a report they prepared the journalists stressed that countless numbers of Iranian personnel are still scattered over a large area. The report adds that the results of the strong battles are still there for the visitor to see. The Iranian tanks, armor, vehicles and guns that were left on the battlefield by the enemy can still be seen ablaze.

A military commander at the front said: The Iraqi soldiers' weapons have dissipated the Iranian attack. He added: We have dealt them a strong blow.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON IRANIAN COUNTERATTACK

JN081235 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)--A high-ranking Iraqi official has emphasized that the Iranian forces' losses during the last 3 days equal their losses since the outbreak of war 4 months ago.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and commander in chief of the People's Army, while seeing off a new batch of People's Army members to the battlefronts, said that the Iraqi armed forces have taught the Iranian enemy a good lesson after checking the largest Iranian attack in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, as described by president of the Iranian regime Bani-Sadr.

He reiterated that Iraq is capable of stepping up the standard of the battle and of making the best demonstration. He said that this battle is as important as that which raged during the first 2 days of the war. He added that the Iranian forces are now in a desperate situation for the Iraqi forces are fighting with high combat efficiency and with better preparedness. He asserted that the Iraqi forces are completely capable of absorbing all the results of the battle and of facing the most difficult situation.

Ramadan added that the wide-scale battle in which all kinds of weapons were used on the Khafajiyah front has disappointed the hopes of all the imperialist-Zionist-Persian circles as well as the defeatists like Hafiz al-Asad.

SUPPORT FOR WEST BANK UNIVERSITY EXPRESSED

JN051838 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 5 Jan 81

[Text] Amman, 5 Jan (INA)--Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Sabah Ibrahim al-Hurani met here today with Dr Hanna Nasir, president of the Bi'r Zayt University in the occupied West Bank.

The discussions during the meeting centered on the deteriorating situation and the harassment to which Bi'r Zayt University students are subjected by the Zionist occupation authorities.

The ambassador reiterated Iraq's support for the university and its readiness to meet all its needs.

KING HUSAYN SPEAKS AT SYMPOSIUM ON MIDEAST ISSUES

JN071457 Amman Domestic Service in English 1709 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text of 7 January speech delivered by King Husayn in opening a symposium on "Arab Resources and Foreign Policy" organized jointly by the Jordan World Affairs Council and the Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, at Jordan University in Amman--recorded]

[Text] Distinguished guests and participants, ladies and gentlemen:

This is the first meeting of its kind to be held in Jordan, a joint seminar between the Jordan World Affairs Council and Georgetown University on the subject of Arab resources and foreign policy; a shared effort by two non-governmental institutions to identify realities and build an adequate basis for communication and better understanding.

Communication in our modern world is an essential element of mutual understanding, and such seminars establish an intellectual debate and the kind of platform from which decisionmakers can draw to formulate realistic and dynamic policies, which--when founded on appropriate principles--stand a good chance of meeting with success.

In this dynamic everchanging world of ours, regular meetings among thoughtful men and women can provide a continuous exchange of views and reassessments of thoughts that can positively influence decisions, free from prejudice and misinformation.

May I now define briefly the pertinent characteristics of this area of the world:

A. It is the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions. Its impact on humanity's progress is unparalleled by any other part of our world.

B. It is an area which straddles some of the most strategically important routes of communications in our world, the control of which from without may well determine the future of the world in terms of the conflicting ideologies of our times. It is, thus, a contested area which, due to its importance, represents from this perspective a dangerous possible flash point which could easily imperil world peace; particularly since,

C. This area contains some of the greatest sources of energy in our world with an inherent impact on the present and future of mankind. It is an unfortunate fact that an uncontrolled race is on between oil exporters, which it is worth mentioning, are not only Arabs on the one hand and the industrial nations on the other. The resultant adversities in terms of economic and monetary turmoil are also affecting far more devastatingly the majority of our world and the Third World nations that do not fall under either category. Thus this regional dimension impresses itself on us with its gravity and magnitude which we are all yet to fully comprehend.

These, then are some of the characteristics of this area.

However, the primary root cause of the turmoil and instability affecting the Arab world today is undoubtedly the inhuman tragedy still afflicting the Arab people of Palestine.

Before Zionism the great Semite Arab family embraced as its members adherents of all the three monotheistic religions.

The alien aggressive Zionist movement now in occupation of the whole of Palestine together with territories belonging to some adjoining Arab states with constant threat of its belligerent Israeli war machine posed at the heart of the Arab world maintains a potentially volatile situation.

Zionism emerged as an aggressive force bent on encroachment upon all the human and legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine and as an alien threat to all Arabs and to peace both within the area and beyond it to world peace. The still unresolved Arab-Israeli issue is the cause celebre that has been exploited to the limit by all interested in undermining the stability of this area.

The Israelis and others have sought to polarize the Arab-Israeli issue.

The Israelis and others are further contributing toward the fragmentation of our Arab world in varied ways and through varied guises. The Arab nation with its rich spiritual and cultural heritage, and distinctive character, without this on-going conflict, could only have been a most solid pillar of stability and freedom in this world. Patriots concerned with preserving the Arab national identity and cohesion and that of the future Arab generations are engaged in many battles to safeguard their sacred trust. Arab patriots realize that a polarization of the Arab-Israeli conflict means the loss of Arab freedom of action and worse still the loss of our national identity together with our freedom.

How then can the problem of Palestine be resolved and what must be the foundations of a just and durable peace? The Jordanian perspective of the essential elements of a comprehensive peace centers on two points:

First, the total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since June of 1967 including Arab Jerusalem. No peace is possible without the return of Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem. Jerusalem, then, in a context of peace can come to represent the essence of peace.

Secondly, a solution to the problem must address all Palestinian rights specified in all pertinent UN resolutions and must guarantee all Palestinians the opportunity to exercise their legitimate right of self-determination under conditions of total freedom in shaping their future on their national soil in whichever way they deem fit, including their right to form an independent Palestinian state.

In this context, a comprehensive peace implies the participation of all parties to the conflict in formulating peace. The Palestinian problem cannot be resolved without the Palestinians being a prime contributor through their active participation in its solution. Palestinians alone have the right to determine their future. There are no other options acceptable to Jordan nor is there any substitute to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, reflecting their hopes and aspirations in a comprehensive peace process.

Finally, the international realpolitik aspect of global security can be meaningless unless it recognizes the regional aspirations of people who are the mainstay of true peace. This Arab world will only be adequately safe guarded and defended by free Arabs. We ask only that we be treated fairly and justly. We wish our relations with the rest of the world to be based on mutual respect. We resent interference in our affairs. We resent the treatment of our just causes by a different yardstick to other just causes the world over. We resent double standards in dealing with affairs of peoples. We will resist with all our abilities all aspects of foreign hegemony on any part of our Arab nation and land, and, from any quarter. We seek to build our strength and develop both our human and natural resources to their fullest potential, and if known sources of energy within this area are not likely to last beyond the foreseen future, then we are determined to use them to provide an equally promising future for all Arabs in our entire Arab world. We seek to live in peace and dignity on all Arab soil and in peace and dignity with all who seek to base their relations with us on the principle of mutual respect and recognition of our legitimate right to seek justice and achieve it so that future generations live in peace and with dignity. We seek, as Arabs, to recover our place among the nations of the world and to contribute once more and fully for the betterment of all mankind and the advent of progressive civilization.

I thank you for the opportunity of sharing these thoughts with you. I am proud to welcome you to Jordan and to wish you every success in your deliberations. God be with you.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE MEETS IN AMMAN

JN062150 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] During a meeting it held today, the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee defined the basic foundations for its work during the current year with the purpose of bolstering the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories so that their goals and aspirations are achieved. It was for these goals that the Baghdad summit conference decided to establish the fund for bolstering steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories.

The committee also evaluated its work of the past year.

The Jordanian side was led by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied territory affairs, and included Sulayman 'Arar, minister of interior; 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of state for prime minister's affairs and minister of transport; and Shawkat Mahmud, director of the executive bureau for the Ministry of Occupied Territory Affairs.

The Palestinian side was led by Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member. It also included Khalil al-Wazir, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad and Hani al-Hasan, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and Brig Gen 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO representative in Amman.

RADIO SAYS SYRIAN REGIME USING PERJURERS' TESTIMONY

JN070535 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Station commentary: "Syrian Rulers and the Search for Outside Witnesses"]

[Text] Although they have fabricated organizations to applaud them in the streets in support of their practices, the Syrian rulers can no longer justify practices inside Syria which are based on killing, terrorism and arrests. The strange paradox in such a situation is that the rulers themselves are not satisfied with their acts against the great Syrian people. How can the people receive those that acclaim the regime at a time when they have been disillusioned because of repeated unjust slogans?

Observers have noticed that the regime's media have started to resort to the regime's supporters outside the country by calling upon these mercenaries to testify that whatever this regime does inside and outside Syria is correct and the truth itself. These mercenaries are ready to play the perjurer's role for the regime, which has discarded the simplest rules of correct behavior. One sees such mercenaries waiting their turn before the doors of radio and television stations and newspaper offices in order to pay part of their debt to the Syrian regime which protects and helps them to carry out their masters' orders.

A regime which cannot locate one honorable citizen among its people to testify to the soundness of its practices is compelled to search for perjurers from its agents abroad in a desperate attempt to convince the people that the leadership is still good and they are still enjoying prosperity and security. This is what the Syrian regime has done. It has called upon mercenaries living abroad under the Syrian regime's protection to testify to the justice of its behavior and practices against the Syrian people and their invincible will.

The tragedy of the Syrian ruling regime is that it is searching for outside witnesses to dispel the accusations against itself.

The Syrian regime has failed to find one Syrian to testify so as to dispel the accusations branding it. Is the situation so bad that they have started to beg testimony from abroad no matter how false this testimony may be? Perhaps some Syrians, who have not yet fallen victims to the regime, will believe them. In such a situation we believe that the Syrian ruling regime will sooner or later be compelled to seek other testimony to justify its continuation in power.

RADIO COMMENTS ON HENRY KISSINGER'S MIDEAST TOUR

JN071931 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Kissinger Between a Mixture of Alternatives and Fruitful Results"]

[Text] In answer to a question as to whether he preferred the Jordanian option or the autonomy plan, Dr Henry Kissinger presented a new concept: A mixture of the two alternatives, by which to reach fruitful results. Such a concept might be of use for the consumption of the Syrian, Egyptian and Israeli media, but as far as Jordan is concerned, it arouses nothing but indifference and contempt. The reasons for our indifference to Kissinger's statements and our contempt of his current tour in the region are well known. In our opinion, the man is seeking a foothold in Republican President Reagan's administration. We think that he believes that the Middle East crisis constitutes a ready opportunity by which he can obtain a suitable job in the Republican administration.

What we want to put on record here is that, by their adherence to the Camp David agreement, the leaders of Egypt, the United States and Israel have ceased to be peacemakers. Instead, they became party to the war against peace in the Middle East. Even if Kissinger's tour has more meaning than what we have just said, this meaning does not exceed the preservation of the United States as a biased party against peace in the Middle East through its continued adherence to the Camp David accords. The United States knows why Jordan rejected these accords, particularly the autonomy plot. This rejection was not meant for a particular administration. We cannot reject Carter's proposals and accept the same proposals from Reagan, because our rejection does not depend on those who rule this or that state but is a pan-Arab stand to which we and the other Arab brothers unanimously committed ourselves in the ninth Arab summit in Baghdad. We are still and will always be committed to this stand, no matter in what form this or that party presents us with such proposals, and no matter how some shortsighted Arabs exploit such proposals, revealing only their chaotic tendencies and political dealings. It is to be regretted that some people who do not know the ABC's of politics are giving so much importance to Kissinger's tour of the region. The tour's only importance is that it is an application for employment, with the recommendation of friends in Cairo and Tel Aviv, to enable Kissinger to return to the region that he himself split and ruined with his policy during the Ford administration.

The autonomy plan, which Kissinger is trying to revive by revolving around it, is a part of the dead satan--the Camp David accords. The Jordanian alternative was proposed by Israel on the eve of Kissinger's private visit to the region in order to allow him to play on it and to weave stories of the thousand and one nights around it. This Jordanian alternative is just an Israeli expression. It is neither directly nor indirectly of concern to Jordan. However, it does constitute a fat topic for the stupid media.

Let Kissinger say what he likes and propose what he likes. None of us gives a damn about his statements or beliefs. Such statements will not affect the stands of any states, unless these states are in need of Kissinger's proposals for use in building their revolutionary and liberal positions and feeding their great battles against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES CYPRIOT POLITICAL LEADER

JN072007 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, met this evening with Dr Vassos Lyssarides, leader of the Cypriot Unified Democratic Union of the Center. They discussed the friendly relations between the two parties, bilateral cooperation and means of further developing this cooperation in bolstering the joint struggle of the two friendly peoples in Syria and Cyprus against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

Their talks also dealt with the situation in the area and with the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught to which the area is subjected. The two sides discussed the situation in Cyprus, recent developments there and the imperialist and Zionist attempt to liquidate the Palestinian cause. They also touched on the roles undertaken by the Iraqi and the Jordanian regimes in implementing the imperialist designs.

Dr Lyssarides asserted his party's stand in support of the Arab nation's struggle against the imperialist and reactionary schemes. Comrade al-Ahmar reaffirmed the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's support for the Cypriot people's struggle to preserve their unity and independence.

BRITISH DELEGATION MEETS WITH OFFICIALS 6 JANMeeting With Assembly Speaker

JN061328 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] Damascus--Mahmud Hadid, People's Assembly speaker, received a British House of Commons delegation under Charles Morrison, vice chairman of the Middle East committee in the Conservative Party, today.

During the meeting, Mahmud Hadid explained the nature of the Arab-Zionist conflict and our country's stand on it. He affirmed that a just and lasting peace in the region cannot be achieved without two basic conditions: A complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to determine their fate and to establish their state.

In reply to a question posed by the delegation about the European initiative on the Palestinian issue, he said that Syria rejects any initiative that does not come within the framework of UN resolutions. He added that this initiative was not given any attention, since it did not effect anything new or different from the Camp David accords.

In reply to another question from the British delegation Hadid said that the Iraqi-Iranian war was fabricated by U.S. imperialism and will only serve the interests of those who schemed for and fabricated it.

Concerning Syrian-British relations, Hadid expressed the hope that they will be prompted, so as to serve both countries interests. The meeting was attended by Muhsin Bilal, director of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly.

Meeting With Council Member

JN062141 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] Today Muhammad Haydar, National Command Council member and chief of the Foreign Relations Office, met with the British House of Commons delegation and reviewed Arab-British relations and the importance of explaining the just Arab issues to the British public.

Haydar answered the delegation's questions about the principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, its organization structure and its international and Arab relations.

RADIO COMMENTS ON KISSINGER'S TOUR, KING HUSAYN

JN071626 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] When Henry Kissinger arrived in occupied Palestine 3 days ago, he announced that he is still concerned over what he called Israeli security and the establishment of peace in the Middle East region.

Here in Syria, we do not know what those who repeatedly alleged that the coming U.S. administration will be more positive and will show more understanding toward Arab demands will say. What will they say, as long as Kissinger puts what he called Israeli security at the top of his priorities in the talks he is holding during his current tour of the region and will hold during subsequent tours?

What could be the significance of Kissinger's efforts to invest the Israeli decision to annex Jerusalem with a false legitimacy, but to express the U.S. contempt for some of its allies who talk a lot about Jerusalem's place in their hearts and minds?

If the United States is justifying its act of supplying its Zionist ally with sophisticated arms by saying that its purpose is to guarantee Zionist security, then what is the significance of helping this ally annex Jerusalem, other than achieving the goal of annexation itself?

Here in Syria, we have always asked and still ask about the stand that King Husayn will take on Kissinger's call for the Jordanian regime's participation in the settlement negotiations.

Now that Kissinger has called for proceeding with the talks on what he called the unification of Jerusalem, our question about the Jordanian regime's stand is even more urgent, as it becomes even more necessary.

Two days ago, Kissinger said that the door is open for Jordan to enter the settlement negotiations. Does this mean that the door is open for King Husayn to accept the annexation of Jerusalem by the Zionist entity?

Why doesn't King Husayn himself reply to these and other even more urgent questions?

If King Husayn is paving the way to enter the settlement negotiations through his promotion of what he called the new U.S. role in the Arab region, what is his justification for such promotion and such negotiations, as long as the Jordanian role is that of any Arab state that has no occupied territories, as President Hafiz al-Asad said a few days ago?

We in Arab Syria have always, still and will continue to believe that the so-called Jordanian alternative, which the United States is seeking to create and later use as a basis for its Middle East negotiations, is nothing but an attempt to destroy the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people and replace it with a false representative.

The proof of this is more than clear since Jordan has no occupied territories. Indeed, the West Bank is part of the Palestinian territory. Further, Jordan has lost its right to legitimately represent the Arabs of the West Bank, since, as King Husayn himself admitted during the Rabat summit, Palestinian representation is confined solely to the PLO.

Does the proposal of that alternative and its use as a basis by the United States signify anything but an exposed attempt to seize the PLO's role of representation and to give this right of representation to King Husayn's regime?

If such an attempt became prominent in the so-called United Arab Kingdom project, which was proposed by King Husayn at the outset of 1972, why then was this project not cancelled immediately after the conclusion of the Rabat conference? In fact, about 6 years [number as heard] have passed since the Rabat conference and no signs have arisen to indicate that King Husayn has abandoned that project.

Some 16 years have passed since the PLO came into existence. During these years and through the PLO's struggle, the Palestinian people were able to prove their ability and competence in the management of their affairs, the planning of their future and the determination of their fate. Thus any attempt like that of King Husayn to seize Palestinian representation from the PLO not only reflects a disdain of the national Palestinian rights and an intention of liquidating these rights; it also reflects a blatant ignorance of the nature of a historical need and of the Arab struggle at the current stage.

Kissinger's call upon Jordan to join the settlement negotiations is merely an attempt by the Reagan administration to push King Husayn to the point where the Carter administration pushed Anwar as-Sadat. As-Sadat's desperate attempt to seize the Palestinian role through the so-called self-rule negotiations failed. No doubt King Husayn will meet with the same failure, if the Jordanian alternative should continue to exist.

Henry Kissinger called upon the Jordanian regime to enter the settlement negotiations on the basis of the Jordanian alternative, which is considered another entry to the self-rule negotiations. Does King Husayn's acceptance of this call mean anything but an early acceptance in principle of the fact that the self-rule in negotiations, conducted with the king's regime, will fail? Does the acceptance of this call mean anything but the acceptance of other calls that would follow; namely, calls to relinquish Jerusalem, which King Husayn alleges is dear to his heart, and the other occupied territories, for which its sons shed their blood and sacrificed themselves? What will remain of the results of such negotiations, should they take place, other than the separate solution, which would include the ionists' penetration into Jordanian territory through the normalization of relations?

A look at the position of As-Sadat and his regime after his capitulation to the Zionists might be sufficient for lessons to be learned. Will King Husayn learn a lesson?

INTERVIEW WITH ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE LEADER

LD071421 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 30 Dec 80 p 9

['Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kafri interview with 'Umar al-Hamidi, general secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, in Damascus--date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-BA'TH: You are welcome to Damascus, the city of steadfastness and confrontation. What is the purpose of your visit?

Brother Al-Hamidi: The actual purpose is to meet the brother officials of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party's National Command and the leaderships of Arab people's organizations in Damascus to prepare for the second ordinary session of the Arab people's conference to be held in Tripoli on 15 January 1981. It is known that this conference is of special importance and, therefore, consultations and talks with the Syrian brothers are among the basic prerequisites for the success of the conference.

AL-BA'TH: With what exactly will the coming conference be dealing?

Al-Hamidi: The most important topics with which the conference will deal are:

- 1--Studying the Arab and international political situation in the light of the political report submitted by the general secretariat;
- 2--Studying the draft charter of the proposed progressive nationalist popular front [Al-Jabhah ash-Sha'biyah al-Qawmiyah at-Taqaddumiyah] and the conference's political program for the coming stage;
- 3--Studying the conference rules and standing orders in the light of the proposed development formula;
- 4--Studying reports on issues concerning the conference itself and its permanent secretariat as well as matters concerning the Arab liberation movement as a whole;
- 5--Approving the general budget.

AL-BA'TH: Is it possible to explain briefly the main principles of the draft charter of the progressive popular front submitted by the Permanent Secretariat?

Brother Al-Hamidi: After an in-depth study of the Arab situation from all its aspects, the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference has come to the conclusion that the decisive battle which our Arab nation is fighting calls for developing the forms of the nation's struggle. Since the conference is the national popular form which the Arab liberation movement has accepted as the alliance framework for its struggle, the Permanent Secretariat has taken the necessary steps to develop the conference in both form and concept:

- 1--It has been agreed to continue to call the conference "The Arab People's Conference" in reference to the general framework of the progressive nationalist popular front;
- 2--It has been proposed to create an intermediate body between the people's conference and the Permanent Secretariat in the form of a coordination council that will meet annually;
- 3--The draft charter and the political program, which are the most important documents to be submitted to the coming Arab people's conference meetings, have been completed, and it is hoped to distribute them on a large scale so that they will be objectively and seriously discussed with a view to reaching an answer to the basic question that is put to us all: How can our Arab nation escape its present acute dilemma, which is due to the lack of a united will resulting from division and regionalism and the exposure of its existence and its interests to aggression and destruction?
- 4--The draft rules and standing orders of the people's conference will determine the conference's identity, objectives, prerogatives and relations with the Arab liberation parties and will determine the bodies that will emanate from the conference, their prerogatives, the terms of membership and so forth.

AL-BA'TH: We would like to know the Permanent Secretariat's evaluation of the "Amman Summit" gathering and the conspiratorial and suspect agreements and results reached at it.

Brother Al-Hamidi: The evaluation made by the Permanent Secretariat of the people's conference regarding the "Amman Summit" was contained in a statement following a meeting it held in Beirut on 1 and 2 December 1980, which, in summary, says that the Amman summit is one chapter in a conspiracy against the Arab nation.

Despite the acceptance, indeed the desire of Steadfastness and Confrontation Front members to act within the framework of Arab solidarity, on the basis of rejecting Zionist aggression against the Arab nation in accordance with the minimum acceptable terms agreed at the Baghdad summit, unfortunately Arab reaction, which derives its strength from its Imperialist allies, found in the "Amman Summit" the opportunity clearly to express its objectives and reveal its intentions, which it has so far concealed behind diplomatic smiles, suspect contacts, and lipservice to the Palestinian cause.

AL-BA'TH: What is required from the Arab liberation movement and the steadfastness and confrontation states in order to be able to confront the imperialist-Zionist reactionary onslaught at this time in particular?

Brother Al-Hamidi: They are required to deal with the matter seriously, objectively and firmly and to reject the naive mediation which some of the reactionary Arab regimes are advocating. The Arab masses must realize that agreement among Arab regimes must be based on a specific principle, namely supporting the Palestinian revolution and enabling its people to return to their homeland, liberate their national soil and establish their own independent state.

AL-BA'TH: How does the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference evaluate the continuing unjust war which Saddam is waging against Iran?

Brother Al-Hamidi: With regard to the Iraq-Iran war, the Permanent Secretariat has already adopted a stand toward it and issued a statement on it. Its view on this war is that it is an American war and not an Arab war, because those who failed to fight the deposed shah have no right to fight the Iranian revolution which toppled the regime of the shah, a U.S. agent and ally and open enemy of the Arab nation.

Since the United States is the party involved in a political, economic and military war against the Iranian revolution, the Iraqi regime's war against this revolution is an unlawful action from the Arab nation's viewpoint.

The Iraqi regime ought to distinguish between border disputes involving two states (there are in fact border disputes between them that should not be ignored, but disputes are one thing and serving imperialist plans is another) and the serious and important national issues of this era. It is sad that the military capabilities of a sister-Arab country--Iraq--are being squandered in vain. The war that has been going on for more than 2 months must stop now because the capabilities of the two neighboring peoples must be saved for the principal battle against Zionism and imperialism.

AL-BA'TH: President Brezhnev's announcement in New Delhi about the Gulf region aroused negative reaction among the pro-U.S. Arabs who do not desire the removal of U.S. military bases. What is the Permanent Secretariat's appraisal of this call?

Brother Al-Hamidi: The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference and the International Secretariat for Solidarity with the Arab People and their central cause, Palestine, in conjunction with AAPSO convened an international conference for solidarity with the national liberation movement and the masses of the Arab Gulf on 28 October in Nicosia. The conference adopted several resolutions condemning the U.S. and European presence in the Arab Gulf region. It also condemned the Iraq-Iran war and its continuation, because the imperialist presence and that war not only expose the security and interests of the masses in the area to dangers, but also endanger the security and interests of the world's peoples as well. Therefore, as a Permanent Secretariat we welcome any international efforts to free any part of the world from the danger of war and destruction, whether in the Mediterranean, the Gulf, the Indian Ocean or any other areas of disturbance that could endanger world peace and security. With regard to President Brezhnev's call, the Permanent Secretariat has not yet studied it but, in accordance with our general stands against imperialism and its military presence, we welcome President Brezhnev's proposal to make the Gulf area a neutral zone for fleets and to turn it into a passage serving the world's peoples.

AL-BA'TH: It is understood that some progressive Arab nationalist factions remain outside the circle of the Arab people's conference. What does the Permanent Secretariat think of the position of these factions?

Brother Al-Hamidi: The Arab People's Conference is open to all the Arab liberation movements. There is no condition to their membership except their acceptance of the charter and agreement to work according to it.

LIBYAPEOPLE'S CONGRESS ADOPTS POLICY RESOLUTIONS

LD072200 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text of resolutions of the third session of the Libyan popular conferences of the General People's Congress read by the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress]

[Excerpt] Tripoli 7 Jan (JANA)--Resolutions of the people's conferences in their regular third session for 1980, formulated by the general assembly of the people's conferences, people's committees, unions, trade unions and professional associations, endorsed by the General People's Congress at its sixth regular session from 3-7 January 1981:

I. Review of the resolutions and recommendations of the people's congresses at their third regular session for 1979 which had been endorsed by the General Assembly of the people's conference, people's committees, unions, trade unions and professional associations [that is], the General People's Congress from 1-6 January 1980.

The basic people's conferences reviewed their resolutions and recommendations and expressed satisfaction over what has been implemented. They stressed implementing what has not been done, particularly the resolutions related to the role of the revolutionary practitioner and revolutionary agrarian guide as well as the agricultural line and employing teachers.

II. Internal policy:

1. Follow up implementation of the budget of transformation [tahawwul] and the administrative budget for 1980.

A. The basic people's congresses express their satisfaction over the completed projects and eliminating obstacles and causes of delay.

B. The people's congresses approved what has been overspent on projects during 1980. The people's congresses discussed the 1981-85 plan for economic and social transformation according to the best scientific and technical standards and in light of the great projects completed in the various economic and social sectors of the 1976-80 plan. Concerned about attaining a strategy for the objectives of the 1981-85 plan, the people's congresses stress the following:

i. The necessity of turning Libyan Arab society into a productive socialist one, to be carried out in accordance with the third universal theory detailed in the Green Book in its three volumes.

ii. Increasing production efficiency and exploiting all possible capabilities, efforts and potentialities in creating efficient production forces.

iii. Technical education and training should be given special importance in order to successfully carry out the transformation plan and to enable the citizen to take part in building and developing the country.

iv. Paying attention and concentrating on bringing about the agrarian revolution with the aim of attaining self-sufficiency in crops and basic farm products.

v. Entering the domain of industrialization, especially carrying out strategic heavy industrial projects with greater strides so as to form a firm, productive economic base.

vi. Paying attention to scientific research, promoting technical sciences and adopting advanced scientific methods in implementing programs and transformation programs. The budget for this purpose, estimated at 18.5 billion dinars, was approved for the years 1981-85.

[Presumably point 2] In order to achieve all this the necessary legislation will be issued and the general people's committee will be assigned the task of adopting all necessary measures to implement the programs and transformation projects leading up to the plan's targets in accordance with the specific timetables. It will also deal with the problems and difficulties arising during plan implementation in order to realize the total transformation of all social and economic spheres, particularly the following:

A. Exempting contractors building strategic and transformation projects from taxes and levies.

B. Stressing the responsibility of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya citizens for implementing the transformation plan by means of imposing penalties on whoever hinders the implementation of any project, even if he is in charge of an establishment implementing a project.

C. Reorganizing national establishments and contracting bodies so that they can play a bigger and more effective role in implementing transformation plan projects.

D. Prohibiting all agent contracts of any type in building construction, including all persons whether they are real or supposed.

3. The people's conferences discussed the draft budget for the transformation plan for 1981 and decided to endorse the draft budget within the limit of 3 billion dinars, in accordance with annex 2, provided the following are taken into consideration:

A. Giving priority to implementing projects transferred from 1980 and which have not been delayed, particularly productive projects and essential public services.

B. Programming the implementation of projects which were not included in the first year--1981--budget, in accordance with available funds during the remainder of the plan while giving priority to strategic and productive projects.

C. They decided to endorse the administrative budget for 1981 (annex 3), totalling 1.05 billion dinars.

4. Revision of the general housing policy and establishment of a housing bank. The basic people's congresses decided the following:

A. To draw up a housing policy in which the direct role of society is to make available free dwellings for those who cannot pay, building houses annexed to public projects and the construction of new towns and communities.

B. Establishment of a housing savings and investment bank which will lend money to citizens and other business related to housing. It will be the basic instrument in making available a house for the citizen, who must play a direct role in financing the construction of a dwelling and its consequences.

III. General resolutions:

1. The General People's Congress endorses the bylaws of the basic popular conferences and popular conferences of the municipalities.

2. The General People's Congress has decided to form the Secretariat of the General People's Congress as follows:

Secretary

Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab

Assistant Secretary

'Ali Bilkhayr

Secretary of Affairs of Popular
Conferences

'Ali Ba'wash

Secretary of Affairs of Popular
Committees

'Abdullah Zahmul

Secretary of Affairs of Unions, Trade
Unions and Professional Associations

Mukhtar Qarba'

3. The General People's Congress has decided to form the General People's Committee as follows:

Secretary of General People's Committee

Engineer Jadallh 'Azzuz at-Talhi

Secretary of People's Bureau for
Foreign Liaison

'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Justice

Muhammad Abu al-Qasim az-Zuwayy

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Atomic Energy

Engineer 'Abd al-Majid al-Qu'ud

Secretary of Liaison for Internal Affairs

Dr Muftah al-Usta 'Umar

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Housing

Engineer Muhammad al-Manqush

Secretary for General People's Committee
for Light Industries

Dr 'Amr Ahmad al-Maqsi

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Electricity

Engineer Jum'ah al-Arbash

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Economy

Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Mass Sports

Muftah Ku'aybah

Secretary of Liaison for Foreign Affairs

Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Planning

Musa Abu Furaywah

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Agrarian and Land Reform

Bashir Judah

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Heavy Industries

'Umar al-Muntasir

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Public Service

Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Mabruk

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Social Security

Ibrahim al-Faqih Hasan

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Mining

Dr 'Abd al-Hafiz az-Zulaytini

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Oil

'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Municipalities

Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Telecommunications and Maritime
Transport

Engineer al-Bukhari Salim Hudah

Secretary of General People's Committee
for Health

Dr Murad 'Ali Lanqi

Secretary of General People's Committee
for the Treasury

Qasim Shallalah

4. The General People's Congress has decided to appoint Brother Muhammad 'Ali al-Jadi as president of the High Court.

5. The General People's Congress has decided to appoint Brother Rajab al-Misallati as governor of the Central Bank of Libya, and Brother Salim Mas'ud Juwayli as deputy governor of the Central Bank of Libya.

6. The General People's Congress recommends consolidation of the activities and programs of the conferences of unions, trade unions and associations.

AFP REPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM

NC071755 Paris AFP in English 1748 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Paris, 7 Jan (AFP)--The prospect of an "Islamic bomb" loomed larger today when Libya announced it was launching a full-scale nuclear energy program.

Libya is to set up its own atomic energy secretariat and build a nuclear research centre, officials in Tripoli said.

Libya's flirting with nuclear energy goes back to 1973 when it set up an atomic energy commission with the aim, observers believe, of helping Pakistan develop an "Islamic bomb" financed by oil revenues.

But it was not until 1978 that Libya first took steps to develop its own nuclear program. After unsuccessful contacts with France, Canada, Sweden and West Germany, Tripoli finally signed an agreement with the Soviet Union in October 1978 for the provision of a 300-megawatt nuclear power station. Construction of the station has not yet started, observers believe, but the Soviet Union is to provide Libya with a 10 megawatt research reactor some time this year.

In July 1980 Libya also signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which is responsible for monitoring nuclear installations.

Meanwhile, Libyan technicians have been sent to Argentina to learn about uranium extraction techniques. Experts doubt whether Libyan territory holds much uranium ore, but observers here noted that announcement of the nuclear expansion program comes a day after Libya's merger with Chad following the civil war in that country. There had been reports of uranium deposits in northern Chad, just to the south of Libya, but experts do not believe there are important deposits there.

But for the time Libya and Islamic countries lack nuclear fuel. Tripoli bought 300 tons of uranium from Niger in 1979. According to well-informed sources the uranium was then shipped to Pakistan.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES SYRIAN PARTY OFFICIAL 7 JAN

LD081106 Tripoli JANA in English 0957 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jan (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fateh revolution received last night Mr Tawfiq as-Salah, member of the Regional Command and head of the organizational bureau of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and his accompanying delegation to the General People's Congress.

AL-'UBAYDI EXPLAINS NEW SYSTEM OF PEOPLE'S BUREAUS

LD081344 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, met this morning with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Jamahiriya, following the abolition of the traditional form of the foreign secretariat, the transformation of political contacts into people's contacts in implementation of the people's democracy which is now being practiced in the Jamahiriya and the marches on the embassies of the Jamahiriya abroad and their transformation into people's bureaus.

In a speech he delivered on the occasion, brother al-'Ubaydi stressed that the Libyan Arab people, since the outbreak of the revolution, have asserted the people's authority and the role of the people's committees everywhere. They have also upheld the principle of the people's democracy in practice not just words. He pointed out that the jamahiri [masses] regime which the Libyan Arab people have established through their people's congresses, their people's committees, their federations and their vocational associations is based on the fact that the people hold authority through the people's congresses, the people's committees, and the federations and vocational associations. He said that the people's committee for foreign liaison will provide the means for contacting the peoples of the world through the people's bureaus abroad and through the embassies of the states accredited to the Jamahiriya.

He emphasized that the Jamahiriya is seeking to consolidate friendly relations with all the countries and peoples of the world, explaining that changing the Jamahiriya embassies into people's bureaus is the ideal way to achieve this goal. He also affirmed the concern of the Jamahiriya about its relations with sisterly and friendly peoples and about consolidating and further promoting such relations.

MOROCCOREPORTAGE ON VISIT OF FRG'S HELMUT SCHMIDT

Discussion on EC Initiative

LD071048 Hamburg DPA in German 0253 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Marrakech (DPA)--Moroccan King Hassan II has welcomed the European Community's recent Middle East initiative. During a discussion with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Hassan expressed his satisfaction on Tuesday evening in Marrakech at this "useful contribution by Europe" toward intensifying the search for peace in the Middle East.

King Hassan and the federal chancellor held an intensive discussion lasting 2 and 1/2 hours on the current state of the Middle East conflict and on possibilities of resuming the interrupted peace process. The Western Sahara conflict, in which Morocco is involved with Algeria, Libya and the Polisario liberation organization, was briefly touched upon.

Hassan drew the chancellor's attention to the problems arising for his country from the southern expansion of the European community, particularly as a result of Spain's entry. A "fair balance of interests" must be found for Morocco, the king stressed. Detailed talks by the federal chancellor on these problems are scheduled for Wednesday, the second and final day of the official government visit to Marrakech.

Discussion on World Economy

LD071504 Hamburg DPA in German 1406 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Marrakech, 7 Jan (DPA)--Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has advocated in Morocco a dialogue on the international economy between industrial states and developing countries.

In a discussion with Moroccan head of government Maati Bouabid and several ministers in Marrakech today, Schmidt stressed at the conclusion of his 24-hour official visit that it is now important to direct the world economy. It must not be ruined.

Schmidt drew attention to the burden on the developing countries and on the industrial states resulting from the continuing oil price increases. Developing countries already have to spend more money on oil than they receive in aid from industrial states, stressed the chancellor. This "gap" can no longer be closed by aid from industrial states because they themselves are suffering from inflation, unemployment and strained financial situation.

The Moroccan side drew attention above all to the great importance of Morocco's economic relations with the European community. The danger exists that the advantages derived from the existing cooperation agreements between Morocco and the EEC will gradually disappear, noted the Moroccan side, alluding to the planned entry of Spain to the EEC and the related threat to Moroccan agricultural exports.

Interview on Energy, World

LD072200 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Interview with FRG Chancellor Schmid* at Marrakech guest residence on unspecified date by unidentified correspondent--recorded; Schmidt replies in German followed by Arabic translation]

[Text] [Question] What are the horizons of relations between Morocco and Federal Germany in the light of this visit and the talks you had with His Majesty King Hassan II yesterday evening and the working session today with the prime minister and justice minister?

[Answer] Relations between our two peoples and countries have achieved noticeable progress in the past few years. His majesty, the Moroccan Government and also the government of Federal Germany, all view with great satisfaction the good state of relations achieved bilaterally at the political, diplomatic, economic and cultural levels. There is more than one indication that these relations will also develop positively in the future. His majesty will visit Germany soon and this visit will facilitate the consolidation of the traditional links between us. At the end of the talks and upon my return to Bonn we shall make efforts to remove the protective barriers imposed by the EEC in relation to trade exchange between your country and the EEC because this protectionism is harming Moroccan interests.

[Question] Since the problem of the Middle East, including the Palestine problem, is foremost among Moroccan preoccupations and interests and is foremost among the problems on the international scene, to what extent can the FRG, which is part of the EEC, contribute to a more effective and realistic role toward the achievement of a just and lasting solution which speeds up the just treatment of the Arabs and the Muslims in their first cause?

[Answer] Your expression "within the EEC" was a correct one as we the Germans, together with the other eight members, which have now become nine, in the EEC strive to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict. The efforts made by the EEC have aroused great and diversified interest. On the one hand his majesty yesterday expressed satisfaction and agreement with the joint European policy toward the Middle East, but on the other hand there is criticism of this policy pursued by the EEC, not only by Israel but also by other countries. I find that there is a need for the European countries to concentrate their joint attempts as we concentrate our common dialogue with the Arab countries, with the aim of achieving and securing the right to exist of all the peoples of the region within the framework of secure borders and on the other hand to reach self-determination for the Palestinian people.

[Question] The world is living today in the era of the energy crisis and rising technology prices--a matter which constitutes a heavy burden on Third World countries. What is the attitude of Germany to this situation and do you believe that dialogue between the North and the South will lead to positive results?

[Answer] There are in fact economic difficulties facing the world as a whole at present. First, there is the population inflation in a number of countries. Second, the paltriness of oil production by some oil producers or particularly the rise in the price of oil. We also suffer from this phenomenon and criticize it in the FRG and we shall also maintain this critical attitude in the future. We believe that the oil producers should shoulder their responsibilities toward the world economy and toward developing countries in particular, because the latter suffer more than others from the acute rise in the price of oil. On the other hand, we believe that there is an urgent need for the creation of alternative energies to oil and we use much bituminous coal despite the fact that its price is high. Also we resort to the method used by France, Britain, and other countries in using nuclear energy. At any rate, we are developing new technological methods using the sun, space and the other different sources. But this matter requires a long time. In general we aim at diversifying the sources of energy even if this takes a long time, because the diversification of the sources of energy shall reduce the acuteness of the dangers of relying on one source. At any rate, I believe that these matters can be submitted in detail within the context of the North-South dialogue.

[Question] The FRG is not far from Africa, this continent where many regions live states of troubles and wars resulting from foreign interference. What is the opinion of your government on these conditions?

[Answer] In principle we support the implementation of the principle of self-determination, and this stems from our interests, as Germany is a divided country and a divided people. Our principle also calls for noninterference in the internal affairs of countries.

[Question] What is your general impression of your short visit to Morocco and in particular to the city of Marrakech?

[Answer] I am very enthusiastic about my visit to your country and in fact this is my second visit to Marrakech. I visited here 12 years ago. I am very enthusiastic about its nature, its climate and its generosity of hospitality, and also I hope I will have the opportunity to visit your country once again in the future.

Interview on Visit, Topics

DW081049 Cologne Westdeutscher Rundfunk Network in German 1730 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Reporter Wagner interview with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Morocco--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Federal Chancellor, Morocco, a developing country, has achieved export surpluses vis-a-vis the Federal Republic since 1979. Are such successes good examples from your point of view, when looking for solutions to North-South problems?

[Answer] It is exemplary insofar as Morocco is not the only developing country that has achieved surpluses in dealing with us. A number of developing countries have achieved surpluses in dealing with us, namely all those countries which do not export oil. On the other hand, however, we have a trade deficit not only with a number of developing countries which do not export oil, but particularly with oil exporting countries. The latter create our difficulties.

Basically it is very reasonable for us Europeans and Germans to open our domestic markets to exports from developing countries, in this case to Moroccan exports. We are doing so with regard to invisible Moroccan exports, since many Germans spend their vacations in Agadir; thousands do so in the course of a year. These are invisible Moroccan exports to Germany, or exports to our country. We import, so to speak, sun tans and recreation from Morocco. That is most important for the balance. It is certainly necessary that not only Germany but all European states open up toward imports from developing countries--we support that principle most explicitly in the European Community.

[Question] I can imagine that King Hassan, as the spokesman of the Islamic Conference, has tried to make you an alliance partner with regard to the Jerusalem problem, an alliance partner against the annexation of the eastern part of the city by the Israeli Knesset and even for the national right to self-determination on the part of the Palestinians. Did he succeed in doing this?

[Answer] We discussed the entire complex of Near and Middle Eastern problems very thoroughly last night. Priority was naturally given to the Jerusalem problem, because King Hassan is the chairman of a commission the Arab states have set up in connection with the Jerusalem issue. The Moroccans know naturally that we support the right of the Palestinians to self-determination; this is nothing new to them. They are waiting to see, as are we, that new elements the new American Government can or will introduce into its policy toward the Middle East. This has lead all sides to tread water on this for the time being.

7 Jan Departure

LD071936 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Marrakech, 7 Jan (MAP)--West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt left Marrakech al-Manarah Airport early this afternoon after a 24-hour official visit to Morocco. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Bouabid.

TUNISIA

MZALI SPEAKS ON MAGHREB, MIDEAST, AFRICAN ISSUES

LD081001 Tunis L'ACTION in French 24 Dec 80 p 6

[Text of speech made by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali at dinner in honor of Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid in Tunis on 23 December: "Our Maghreb Provides Opportunities for Mutual Understanding, Complementariness and Rapprochement Which Take it Possible to Establish Functional Unity in all Spheres"]

[Excerpt] I will never forget the visit which I paid to fraternal Morocco, the exceptional hospitality with which I was received, the cordiality of the welcome extended to me and the sincere desire which I noticed among all our Moroccan brothers to strengthen our fraternal bonds and impart to cooperation between our two countries a sound and strong stimulus likely to consolidate its bases and further improve its prospects.

I feel sure that the results which we achieved during my visit to fraternal Morocco have greatly helped our two peoples to express the hope that our joint action will be coordinated more effectively. Prime minister, we feel sure that your visit will provide a new opportunity for concretizing our two countries' desires, strengthening our relations and ensuring that they are always an example of loyal cooperation and a model for relations among fraternal countries determined to do their utmost to ensure the happiness and the prosperity of their peoples and create prerequisites for power and invulnerability.

Our Maghreb provides opportunities for mutual understanding, complementariness and rapprochement which make it possible to establish functional unity in all spheres, especially with respect to education, culture and the economy.

However, such work can be carried out only if intentions are pure, if wishes are sincere, if we shed egoism, if we opt for tolerance and if we manage to transcend any disagreements and are able to find solutions to them within a strictly Maghrebian framework, placing the interests of our greater Maghreb above any other consideration in order to create such an entity on solid and safe bases.

We feel sure that this work demands from us patience, efforts, faith and continuous, progressive and methodical action characterized by a sense of proportion and by wisdom. This work also makes it necessary for us to consider our possibilities, combine our efforts and establish a system of complementarity between us with a view to determining a joint Maghreb strategy, likely to lead us gradually toward the creation of an Arab Maghreb which will play a specific role among the big entities of the modern world.

The special interest which we take in the building of our greater Maghreb as a stage in the process of building the Arab-Islamic nation constitutes for us a stimulus which encourages us to determine an Arab strategy based on joint action, coordination of stances, active solidarity, economic complementarity and mutual trust and also on harmonious relations devoid of any spirit of hegemony, since there is no reason why such a spirit should exist among fraternal peoples. This is how we will be able to close our ranks again, recreate our unity, develop our peoples' awareness, support our causes and advance with firm steps along the path leading to a unity which is so greatly desired.

Prime minister, gentlemen, by opting for this path and acting according to these principles, we strengthen the Arab ranks and ensure our chances of success in the face of various currents which pull us apart and of the innumerable challenges with which we have been confronted.

With reference to this I am pleased to be able to emphasize the similarity of the stances adopted by the Republic of Tunisia and the Kingdom of Morocco toward a number of problems and their support for our Palestinian brothers in their struggle to assert their nationhood and their fight against an extremely stubborn Zionist occupier, who practices a most infamous, most despicable and most cruel form of colonialism--the very same Zionism which is an affront to all mankind--at a time when all peoples desire to break their chains and recover their dignity, their freedom and their independence.

Faced with an obscurantist and intransigent Israeli policy, we are duty-bound to continue to support the glorious struggle waged by our Palestinian brothers under PLO leadership to ensure that the heroic Palestinian people are able to exercise their right to self-determination and create an independent national state.

In this context I have the duty to express the respect which the Tunisian president, government and people have for His Majesty King Hassan II, following the steps which he has taken as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee to denounce the barbaric acts committed by a Zionist occupier bent on desecrating the city of Jerusalem, changing the nature of its holy places, Judaizing it and depriving it of its Arab-Islamic character. We are duty-bound to pay tribute to this majesty for his repeated appeals to world opinion with a view to liberating the holy city from a colonialist yoke, safeguarding its Arab character and preserving its civilizational and religious heritage.

Gentlemen, the war now raging in the Middle East between two fraternal countries saddens and worries us. We can now only call again on Iraq and Iran to allow reason and wisdom to prevail, abstain from spilling more blood and resort to peaceful means with a view to resolving problems which divide them through negotiations, that is, on the basis of respect for the general principles set forth by the Islamic Conference Charter and the UN Charter.

We are also concerned about the painful events which have led to upheavals in certain regions of the African Continent, jeopardizing its stability and security, exposing certain countries to the dangers of dismemberment and anarchy and increasing dissensions among members of the African family which could well throw these countries into the orbit of certain foreign powers, at a time when our continent has not yet completely freed itself from colonialism, in view of the fact that the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, in fact, still live under the domination of a despicable colonialist and racist regime.

Our alarm and concern are the greater in view of the fact that many regions throughout the world have become hotbeds of tension and crises and that an atmosphere of confrontation now prevails on the international scene which could well lead to violence and military intervention in many regions of our planet. This is what happened in Afghanistan--an Islamic country and a member of the group of nonaligned countries.

We are really afraid that the present situation could lead to a deterioration in international relations which would harm detente and jeopardize world peace and security.

As far as we are concerned we are convinced that only commitment to the objectives of nonaligned countries, assertion of the principle of dialogue with a view to finding a peaceful solution to international disputes, noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries, refraining from resorting to force and a reduction in the flagrant inequalities existing between developing countries and industrialized countries can reduce tensions and promote the reign of world peace established on solid and fair bases.

PRC AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO BOURGUIBA

LD071607 Tunis L'ACTION in French 31 Dec 80 p 1

[Excerpt] At an official ceremony in the Carthage Palace yesterday morning President Bourguiba received new PRC Ambassador to Tunis Meng Yue's credentials in the presence of Foreign Minister Hassan Belkhodja.

BEGIN MEETS MINISTERS HAMMER, HURVITZ 7 JAN

TA071243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin has again met with Ministers Hammer and Hurvitz in an attempt to work out a compromise on the 'Etzyoni report. Shlomo Lorincz, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, sat in on today's meeting, but agreement has still not been reached.

BEGIN SEEKS TO PREVENT NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE

TA080851 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 81 p 1

[By political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] In recent days the coalition components have discussed the technical means for terminating the government's term, although it is agreed among all of them that even if the finance minister or the education minister resigns the parties currently forming the government will continue to express confidence in it in the Knesset. However, the prime minister will initiate early elections, either through a Knesset law [for its dissolution] or by tendering his resignation to the president.

The purpose of the contacts is to prevent a situation in which the Knesset would pass a vote of no-confidence in the government. All therefore agree that the initiative for advancing the elections will come formally from the prime minister; thus the La'am and NRP factions will not join the opposition in no-confidence votes the opposition may initiate in the Knesset.

These clarifications are taking place against the backdrop of the assessment that there will be no avoiding a government crisis next Sunday in view of the differences between the finance and education ministers over the fate of the 'Etzyoni report's recommendations.

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR EARLY ELECTIONS REPORTED

TA080619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] There is a general estimation in the coalition parties that there is no way out of the deadlock over the 'Etzyoni committee's report and there is increased support for the proposal to advance the elections to this spring. Knesset Likud faction chairman Avraham Sharir said there was no point to trying to make up new coalition compositions again and again. NRP faction chairman Yehuda Ben-Me'ir also said there would be no alternative to bringing the elections forward if Minister Hammer or Minister Hurvitz resigned at Sunday's Cabinet session.

A group of leaders of RAFI, the finance minister's party, are to meet this morning in Tel Aviv to discuss the party's new deployments and the steps it will take after Sunday's Cabinet session. At the same time, the attempts continue to reach a compromise over the 'Etzyoni conclusions. The prime minister will again meet this morning with the minister will again meet this morning with the ministers of education and finance. Representatives of the teachers' unions will meet with Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Shlomo Lorincz, who has formulated a compromise proposal of his own for them. The meeting will be attended by the director general of the Ministry of Education. According to the Lorincz proposal, the Cabinet will now confirm the 'Etzyoni recommendations in principle, but all the salary clauses will be transferred for discussion by the ministerial committee for economic affairs and their implementation will only begin in April 1982. The teachers have already rejected the idea and Lorincz will try to convince them to accept it.

SHIM'ON PERES CANCELS TRIP TO UNITED STATES

TA080858 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has cancelled his planned U.S. trip. Mr Peres, who was scheduled to leave at the beginning of this week, originally decided to postpone the visit because of developments in the domestic arena. Now, apparently because of the prospects that the elections will be advanced, he has decided to cancel the trip.

BEGIN ASKS UK VISITORS TO BLOCK EC INITIATIVE

TA071211 Jerusalem POST in English 7 Jan 81 p 2

[By diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday appealed to a visiting group of British Conservative parliamentarians to use their influence to stop the European Middle East initiative. Begin said he hoped that the autonomy negotiations would be resumed in late winter or early spring, and that he expected to be invited to a meeting with President Reagan, either alone or together with President as-Sadat.

"There are enough difficulties," Begin said. "We don't need additional obstacles."

He recalled Israel's "deep astonishment" at the European Community's "Venice declaration" of last June, which called for the Palestine Liberation Organization to be "associated with" the peace process. Begin urged his guests to point out at Westminster and at the European Parliament the damage that this "encouragement of the rejectionists" could do to the peace process.

Most of the guests, members of the "Conservative friends of Israel," seemed to agree with Begin when he criticized the British Foreign Office for having sent its officials to meet with Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut recently. The foreign secretary's declared readiness to meet the PLO chief under certain conditions was "detrimental even though it is conditional," Begin added.

It was "sacrilegious," said Begin, to compare the PLO to the pre-state Jewish Liberation Organization. The latter had tried to avoid civilian casualties, while the PLO "boasts at the killing of women and children."

Other points made by the premier:

--There may soon be new cooperation with Egypt in the field of irrigation and "perhaps in some other areas too."

--"As-Sadat is the ruler in Egypt; there is no doubt about that whatsoever" (in response to a question regarding the depth of Egypt's commitment to peace).

--Soviet weaponry stockpiled in Libya is sufficient to equip seven divisions.

--Soviet "advisers" marched together with Syrian troops when they massed recently on the Syria-Jordan border.

The guests gave Begin a letter from British Premier Margaret Thatcher, in which she said that she took "pride in the fact that I was among the founder-members of the Conservative friends of Israel." She assured Begin that "the integrity and security of Israel are of paramount importance to the British Government."

MAJORITY WANTS JERUSALEM AS UNDIVIDED CAPITAL

TA071225 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 81 p 3

[Excerpt] Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of Israel. That is the opinion of the majority of the Israeli public as indicated in a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the Pori Institute at the request of HA'ARETZ.

The Pori Institute director, Dr Refa'el Gil, who conducted the poll, points out that Israeli public opinion over the status of Jerusalem has remained unchanged in the past 10 years.

In a Pori public opinion poll conducted 10 years ago (December 1970) some 57 percent of the public said that the status of Jerusalem must remain unchanged "even if this prevents the reaching of peace." In the latest Pori public opinion poll more than 55 percent of the public expressed exactly the same opinion.

Some 16 percent (compared with 19 percent 10 years ago) agree that Jerusalem be declared an international city.

Some 1.7 percent (compared with 2.1 percent 10 years ago) agree to the city being repartitioned between Israel and the Arabs "as prior to the 6-day war."

Some 12 percent of the public (compared with 16 percent 10 years ago) consent that Jerusalem become a joint capital of Israel and of the Arabs.

About 13 percent (compared with 8 percent 10 years ago) do not know what the solution to the Jerusalem problem should be.

PORI OPINION POLL FAVORABLE TO DAYAN, WEIZMAN

TA021004 Jerusalem POST in English 2 Jan 81 p 3

[By Sara Honig]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Electoral prospects are becoming brighter for a new center party provided it is headed by vote-getters such as Moshe Dayan or 'Ezer Weizman.

This is the main conclusion of an opinion poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah for the financial weekly KSAFIM. Such a new party would take a large bite out of both Labour's and the Likud's Knesset representation, predicts Tzemah of the Dahaf Research Institute.

Her poll also shows Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres leading former Premier Yitzhaq Rabin and Premier Menahem Begin in popularity for the first time. But Rabin's popularity is still surprisingly resilient despite his losing bid for Labour's leadership.

The poll shows that if elections had been held during December, a center party headed by former Foreign Minister Dayan could have garnered 17 Knesset seats. A similar party headed by former Defense Minister Weizman could have won 15 Knesset seats. Tzemah says this is a very significant enhancement in the prospects of such a new party.

A poll in November did not include the possibility of a Dayan-led center list, but it did check the prospects of a Rafi list headed by Dayan, Finance Yiga'el Hurvitz and MK Zalman Shoval. The results then indicated such a list could have won 13 Knesset seats; and a center list headed by Weizman could have resulted in the control of 11 Knesset seats.

The latest poll is based on questions put to a random sample of 1,260 persons. It shows almost no change from previous findings in the event that only the present parties ran in the elections. Thus the Alignment is likely to win 63 Knesset seats, the Likud 24, the National Religious Party nine, and the Aguda bloc six. Tehiya's prospects indicate a rise from three to four Knesset seats, while all other parties would together control 14 seats.

The poll also indicates that of the 17 Knesset seats going to Dayan's list, seven would be won at Labour's expense, six at Likud's, one would be lost by the NRP and three by other parties. A 15-member Weizman list would subtract seven seats from the Alignment, five from the Likud and three from other parties.

The December poll differs considerably from its November predecessor in the popularity field. For many months Rabin led, with Begin in second place, Peres third and Weizman a poor fourth. However, following Peres' convincing victory at his party's convention last month, he has climbed to the lead for the first time with 34.8 percent calling him their choice for prime minister. In November, only 24.2 percent preferred him. Rabin slipped from 33.4 percent to 26.7, and Begin in third place is down from 27 percent to 22 percent. Weizman made a slight gain from 8.7 percent to 10.3 percent.

Tzemah maintains that there is a political significance in the fact that Rabin continues to attract considerable public support, although he is obviously out of the race for the premiership.

She notes that among the very large segment of floating voters, Rabin continues to lead over all other contenders and 33.3 percent of the undecided group prefer him, with 32 percent for Peres.

Moreover, in a direct contest between Rabin and Peres, Rabin continues to do better than Peres, preferred by 47.1 percent against 43.9 percent for Peres.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE CONDEMNS EGYPTIAN BAN

TA071308 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Jan 81 p 2

[By political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Yesterday the prime minister's office reacted with gravity to reports from Cairo to the effect that the Egyptian culture and information minister gave instructions to prevent Jerusalem POST correspondents from entering Egypt.

The Egyptian reports said this came in reaction to a Jerusalem POST commentary which said that President as-Sadat was planning changes in his government due to the tense relationship between his deputy, Husni Mubarak, and other personalities in the Egyptian leadership.

The prime minister's office statement said that if the report about the Egyptian intention to ban Israeli newsmen because of articles published in their newspapers is true, it should be viewed as a grave and intolerable act.

The statement mentions the restraint exercised by the Israeli Government in view of the wave of hostile articles in the Egyptian press in the past including offensive cartoons against Prime Minister Begin. The statement said Israel favors freedom of the press and to express what one thinks and objects to the banning of reporters.

Yesterday the Israel ambassador in Egypt, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, met the Egyptian culture and information minister, Dr Mansur Hasan, and explained to him Israel's position on this issue.

UN CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA OPENS IN GENEVA

Waldheim Remarks

AB071225 Paris AFP in English 1151 GMT 7 Jan 81

[By Dave Clemens]

[Excerpts] United Nations, Geneva, 7 Jan (AFP)--Warring parties in the 14-year Namibian guerrilla conflict met for the first time in a conference hall today, staring at each other across 30 feet of worn green carpet while United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said the talks had an excellent prospect of laying the foundation for peace.

Mr Waldheim said he hoped that by the end of the conference next Wednesday, the South African-led delegation and that of the guerrilla South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) would have agreed on a date for a cease-fire and on moving toward independence for Namibia before year's end.

If an accord were not reached, there was a strong possibility that the Namibian war--in which 1,500 people died last year--would escalate and perpetuate itself in a continuing cycle of violence, hatred and destruction, Mr Waldheim said.

The opening session started nearly half an hour late in the Palais de Nations. SWAPO delegates and their counterparts from South Africa and the South African-backed parties in Namibia filed in through opposite doors and there was no contact between the two sides.

The secretary general suggested the first working session take place this afternoon.

The diplomatic problem of who was to talk to whom was resolved without fuss at the opening session, despite South Africa's previous objection to talking to SWAPO and SWAPO's to dealing with the internal parties.

The delegation of Namibia parties led by the South African administrator general sat in the front row on one side of the room with the South African observer delegation, led by Foreign Affairs Secretary Brand Fourie, behind. SWAPO, led by its president, Sam Nujoma, was opposite.

Also in attendance were observer delegates from the six African front-line states and the Western five that helped negotiate the U.N. plan for a cease-fire and internationally supervised elections.

Mr Waldheim also greeted Edem Kodjo, secretary general of the Organization of African Unity.

But Mr Waldheim said that since all the parties had agreed in principle to the U.N. plan more than two years ago, the problems remaining relate largely in one way or another to confidence among the parties.

There was no indication what confidence-building measures might be discussed during the closed working sessions, although the South Africans reportedly want the constitution of independent Namibia to contain guarantees for the territory's 100,000 whites, about 10 percent of the population.

Still, Mr Waldheim stressed that there could be no going back on agreements previously reached or of renegotiating the fundamental arrangements of the U.N. plan.

The U.N. secretary general, who will not preside at the working sessions but leave them to Undersecretary General Brian Urquhart, told the assembled delegates that there were two alternatives in Namibia.

We may go forward boldly along the lines of U.N. resolution 435 (calling for U.N. supervised elections) and develop a cooperative attitude toward the difficulties that undoubtedly lie ahead, he said.

Mr Waldheim said: We have an excellent chance during this meeting of laying a solid foundation for a successful, independent state of Namibia. But he said the other option was to fail to agree on implementing the resolution and to remain in the present highly unsatisfactory situation of suspicion...and lack of communication. He said that if the bright prospect of a new chapter of cooperation in Southern Africa were postponed indefinitely as a result of failure here, the present tragic confrontation would deepen, positions would harden and the concern of the international community would have small practical meaning or benefit for the people of Namibia.

The UN leader, calling the talks a historic moment, seemed to be saying, in fact, that they constitute if not a last chance for peaceful settlement in Namibia, at least a very late one.

Recognition Demand

AB081321 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Excerpt] United Nations, Geneva, 8 Jan (AFP)--The U.N.-sponsored conference on Namibia, which opened yesterday in an atmosphere of guarded optimism set by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, appeared to be hesitating today when the first working session was delayed by a demand for recognition by the internal Namibian parties.

These parties are part of the delegation led by the South African administrator general in Windhoek, Danie Hough. The delicate question of their status appeared to have been resolved yesterday when their men attended the opening session lined up alongside Mr Hough and Mr Waldheim referred to Mr. Hough's delegation.

Until now, the guerrillas of the South-West African People's Organization have refused to talk to the internal parties, saying they would only deal with the South Africans, or at least a South African-led delegation.

But this morning, Dirk Mudge, leader of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, the principal internal party, said the administrator general was going to ask that all the internal party delegates be introduced at the working session.

This request was evidently at the center of a meeting between Mr Waldheim and the SWAPO delegation, led by its president, Sam Nujoma, that delayed the working session for more than an hour.

It appeared that the session, if it took place, was to be open to the public and press.

The conference is intended to get agreement on a March cease-fire in the 14-year guerrilla war in the territory, followed by preparations for elections leading to independence before the end of the year.

KENYAKENYA-UGANDA HOLD TRANSPORTATION TALKS IN NAIROBI

LD062026 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Jan 81 EA

[Text] Kenya and Uganda today held talks in Nairobi on matters pertaining to railway transportation facilities, port facilities, road transport licensing, transportation of goods by road and customs procedure between the two countries.

The meeting, which was chaired by the minister for transport and communications, Mr Henry Kosgey, was attended by the minister for tourism, Mr Elijah Mwangale; two permanent secretaries; the managing director of Kenya Railways, Mr Davidson Ngini; officials of Kenya Ports Authority, and other senior government officials from the Ministries of Transportation and Communication, Commerce, Finance and Foreign Affairs. The Uganda delegates comprised the minister for regional cooperation, Mr Tewunga; the minister for marketing and cooperatives, Mr Yona Kanyamozzi; and the minister for commerce, Mr Omara-Liko. Others from Uganda were the permanent secretary for regional cooperation, Mr (Kamanyua); the permanent secretary for regional cooperation, Mr (Kamanyua); the permanent secretary for marketing and cooperatives, Mr (Okodoi); and the permanent secretary for commerce, Mr (Retega).

Among the pledges made at the mini-summit of the Ugandan and Kenyan heads of state at Webuye Falls yesterday was that the two countries would continue to make consultative ministerial meetings as frequently as possible.

GOVERNMENT SAYS HOTEL BOMBER LINKED WITH PFLP

LD071540 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 7 Jan 81 EA

[Text] The government has issued a statement strongly condemning the barbaric and cowardly act perpetrated against innocent and peace-loving people by international terrorism. The statement was referring to the New Year's Eve bomb explosion at the Norfolk Hotel which caused the death of 15 people, injured many others, and in addition to that extensive damage to the hotel occurred.

The statement went on to say that the person who planted the bomb at room No 7 in the hotel has been identified as a Moroccan national, (Qaddura Muhammad abd al-Hamid), who was registered in the hotel as (Murad Aksali) with a Maltese passport. He is known to have joined the Fatah group and later joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He was sent to Europe in 1973 by the front and is known to have been using other aliases, among them is (Muhammad Havi Qaddur). It has been established that on the fateful day he left Kenya at 1330 aboard a Kenya Airways flight KQ358 to Jidda, where the flight terminated. His hotel bill remained unpaid to date. The government reiterates that it will never condone or support any active terrorism as a means of solving any type of conflict international or otherwise. And it has therefore appealed to the international community to equally condemn all forms of terrorism and take appropriate measures to eradicate the menace. The statement went on to say that investigations are continuing. In the meantime, strict measures will be taken to further tighten security requirements, and members of the public including visitors are expected to understand and cooperate.

BRIEFS

TANZANIA CHOLERA PREVENTION STEPS--Musoma: The Mara region has taken precautionary steps in an effort to prevent cholera, which is believed to have killed two persons and hospitalized several others in the neighboring district of Ukerewe, Mwanza region. The steps include banning the roasting of meat and sale of fruit in [name indistinct] village on the border of Ukerewe district, Mwanza region, and Bunda district, Mara region.

[Text] [Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 4 Jan 81 EA]

CHADKAMOUQUE SAYS CHAD-LIBYA MERGER IMPOSSIBLE

ABO81145 Paris AFP in French 0950 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Ndjamea, 8 Jan (AFP)--The vice president of Chad's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), Lt Col Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue, yesterday described as an impossible marriage the proposed merger of the two peoples announced in the Chadian-Libyan joint communique published in Tripoli on Tuesday at the end of President Goukouni Oueddei's visit.

In a statement to AFP, the head of the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT), who is a Christian from the southern part of Chad, explained that he was expressing a personal view and that he was awaiting further enlightenment from President Goukouni before making a statement in the name of the faction he represents. He affirmed, however, that there was no question of selling Chad's sovereignty dirt cheap.

Moreover, it has been learned from official sources that President Goukouni's explanation of the real significance of the Tripoli communique will constitute the main topic of the cabinet meeting scheduled to be held very soon. This is why Lieutenant Colonel Kamougue has been somewhat reserved, as has been the GUNT president, who has refrained from making any comment since his return to Ndjamea. It has also been learned from a reliable source that all the GUNT ministers have returned to the capital with the exception of Foreign Minister Hamat Acyl, leader of the pro-Libyan Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), who is said to be in Tripoli. Mr Acyl's presence in the Libyan capital has never been officially announced.

For its part, the government-owned CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY (ATP), which published the Tripoli communique today, followed it up with a comment which minimized the significance of the proposed merger between Chad and Libya. After denying that President Goukouni went to Tripoli to pay allegiance to President al-Qadhafi by offering Chad to him on a silver platter, ATP observed that the Chadian head of state made no formal promise to his Libyan counterpart. The news agency finally described as a declaration of intention the portion of the communique relating to a future union between the two countries.

ZAIREMOBUTU COMMENTS ON CHAD PEACE, MOBUTU PLAN

ABO71312 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] At 1800 yesterday, the members of the diplomatic and consular corps and the representatives of the international organizations presented their new year wishes to the head of state in the People's Palace. On this occasion, the founding father of the Popular Movement of the Revolution, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, rejoiced that Chad has (?achieved) all the conditions for a lasting peace within the framework of the Lagos accord. This accord calls for the organization of general elections and the setting up of a neutral force responsible for ensuring peace.

The president of the republic however expressed concern for the year 1981 in view of the serious international tensions which the world is unable to control or appease.

In the internal field, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko emphasized the positive results achieved by Zaire in 1980 within the context of the Mobutu plan. The head of state expressed the hope that Zaire's partners will fulfill all their commitments during the third Brussels conference [words indistinct]. Concurrently with the national development effort, the president of the republic reaffirmed our country's determination to continue with its policy of peace, good neighborliness and permanent exchange of ideas with the neighboring countries, particularly those bordering Zaire.

NIGERIAGOVERNMENT STATEMENT ANNOUNCES CABINET RESHUFFLE

LD081100 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] There has been a Cabinet reshuffle in Nigeria. A statement from the executive office of the president in Lagos says that six ministers have been reassigned. Under the reshuffle Alhaji Akanbi Oniyangi, minister of communications, will take over responsibilities for the Ministry of Defense. Professor Iya Abubakar, minister of defense, will take charge of internal affairs, while Mr. Isaac Shaahu, minister of commerce, will move to the Ministry of Communications. Others involved are Alhaji Bello Maitama Yusuf, minister of internal affairs, who will assume responsibility for commerce; Mr Victor Masi, who will move from works to finance and Professor S.M. Essang will leave finance for the Ministry of Works. The president has also approved that Maman Ali Makele, who has been presiding over the department of steel development in an acting capacity, will assume full responsibility as minister of steel development. Both the reassignments and confirmation take effect from 15 January 1981.

LIBYAN EMBASSY BEGINS EVACUATION, STILL FUNCTIONS

AB071700 Paris AFP in French 1540 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Lagos, 7 Jan (AFP)--It was learned Wednesday in Lagos that the members of the Libyan Embassy in Lagos began evacuating their premises Tuesday, following the Nigerian Government's expulsion order asking them to leave the country within 48 hours.

The order was given as a result of the transformation of the embassy into a people's bureau without the knowledge of Nigerian authorities.

Commenting on this change, Sharaf ad-Din, Libyan ambassador to Nigeria, said that the Nigerian authorities misunderstood the action and therefore gave it a wrong interpretation. We will respect the Nigerian Government's decision and leave Nigeria with a heavy heart, with the hope that the relations between our two countries will return to normal, he continued.

Meanwhile, the NIGERIAN NEWS AGENCY indicates that despite the government's ultimatum, the embassy was performing its normal duties on Wednesday, with some Nigerian nationals waiting for their entry visas to Libya.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES HIGHER PRICES FOR CRUDE OIL

AB072145 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] The federal government has announced new prices for Nigerian crude oil. The new prices, which took effect from the first of this month, represent about an 8 percent increase.

According to a release only light and Black River will now sell at \$40 per barrel, Forcados [names indistinct] and Escravos at \$39, while Boni medium stands at \$38 per barrel.

LIBERIADOE: FOREIGNERS SUBVERTING OTHERS TO BE EXPELLED

AB072100 Paris AFP in French 1803 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Monrovia, 7 Jan (AFP)--Foreigners resident in Liberia must refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other nations or find themselves immediately expelled, the Liberian head of state told the Liberian national news agency (LINA) on Wednesday.

According to LINA, Master Sergeant Doe, who made no special reference to any national group, made this statement after recent reports that certain foreign residents wanted to use Liberia as a base for subversive activities against neighboring countries.

The head of state believes that such activities do not conform with the aspirations of the Liberian revolution nor with those of the OAU and says that the government will spare no effort in tracking down such elements, LINA added.

It will be recalled that the same topic was raised by Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, Liberian minister of foreign affairs, in his new year address to the diplomatic corps accredited to Monrovia.

Liberia will not allow its territory to be used as a base or sanctuary for subversive activities against any country far or near, the minister declared.

SENECALDAILY SAYS AFRICA MUST REACT TO CHAD-LIBYA MERGER

AB072008 Paris AFP in French 1755 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Dakar, 7 Jan (AFP)--Writing under the title "Foolishness", the daily paper LE SOLEIL, which is close to the Senegalese Government, calls on Africa to react against and become vigilant in the face of the Chad-Libya merger, which Tripoli has announced in a communique.

Chad is under trusteeship and those who did not pay much attention to Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's intention to patiently set up his united states of the Sahel must now be attentive to that reality, the paper writes.

The resistance movement has been flouted since the FAN was forced out of Ndjamen. The tragedy is that the true Chadians cannot defend themselves alone. We must stress that Africa must react against the situation and be vigilant--as well as the international community, which has been deceived by the so-called legitimacy. To Goukouni, this legitimacy is contributing to building the foundation for dictatorship instead of rebuilding Chad.

In conclusion the paper writes that Africa must some day reconsider its position on this issue. It will be necessary to overcome an enemy whose arsenal gives the shivers even to merchants of death.